



October 4, 2019

Honorable Robert Scott
Chairman
House Education and Labor Committee
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Virginia Foxx
Ranking Member
House Education and Labor Committee
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Scott and Ranking Member Foxx:

AccessLex Institute is pleased to offer its support for H.R.4391, the *Public Service Loan Forgiveness Modernization Act*. Introduced on September 18, 2019 by Representatives Marcia Fudge (D-OH-11) and Jimmy Panetta (D-CA-20), the *Public Service Loan Forgiveness Modernization Act* would simplify and modernize the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program.

AccessLex Institute, in partnership with its nearly 200 nonprofit and state-affiliated ABA-approved member law schools, has been committed to improving access to legal education and to maximizing the affordability and value of a law degree since 1983. The AccessLex Center for Legal Education Excellence advocates for policies that make legal education work better for students and society alike and conducts research on the most critical issues facing legal education today.

As you know, the PSLF program has experienced serious implementation issues since the opportunity to apply for program benefits first became available. These issues have resulted in 99 percent of applicants being denied relief due to difficulties in administering the program and unclear program requirements. This number highlights the serious deficiencies that exist with implementing the program and that improvements are desperately needed. The *Public Service Loan Forgiveness Modernization Act* would begin to address these issues by establishing a comprehensive and easily searchable database of qualified public service employers and providing borrowers with a 60-day notice of employment recertification requirements and an annual statement of qualified payments made to date.

PSLF continues to be a vital recruitment tool and the proposed changes would help to ensure that the federal government provides the student loan forgiveness that Congress created in recognition of the tremendous benefits that public servants provide. Thus, AccessLex Institute supports the *Public Service Loan Forgiveness Modernization Act* because it strengthens the promise of PSLF.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at cchapman@accesslex.org or Nancy Conneely, Director of Policy, at nconneely@accesslex.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris P. Chapman".

Christopher P. Chapman
President and Chief Executive Officer